

Message Text

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14
ACTION EUR-12

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PARIS FOR DEA PICINI
S/NM FOR LAWRENCE
EUR/WE FOR BEIGEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, NL, TH
SUBJECT: DUTCH NARCOTICS OFFICER FOR BANGKOK

REF: (A) BANGKOK 25945, (B) STATE 230521 (NOTAL)

WE GAVE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLICE FONTEIJN A MEMORANDUM
SEPT. 29 CONTAINING REASONS FOR US PROPOSAL THAT DUTCH STATION
NARCOTICS OFFICER IN BANGKOK. FONTEIJN WILL ATTEMPT TO INCLUDE
FUNDS FOR SUCH AN OFFICER IN JUSTICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET, TO BE
CONSIDERED BY PARLIAMENT IN OCTOBER. TEXT OF MEMORANDUM FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: THE FOLLOWING REASONS SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL OF THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT THAT THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT ASSIGN A NAR-
COTICS ATTACHE TO ITS EMBASSY IN BANGKOK.

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1. EUROPE IS SUFFERING FROM A HEROIN EPIDEMIC. IN 1975, THE

AMOUNT OF HEROIN SEIZED IN EUROPE ALMOST MATCHED THAT SEIZED IN THE U.S. (264 KILOGRAMS VERSUS 273.5 KILOGRAMS). THIS YEAR, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE AMOUNT SEIZED IN EUROPE IS EXPECTED TO EXCEED THAT SEIZED IN THE U.S.

2. VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE HEROIN SEIZED IN EUROPE ORIGINATES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

3. THE CHIEF SOURCE OF THAT SUPPLY IS BANGKOK. (CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT OF HONG KONG POLICE JACK JOHNSTON CONFIRMED THIS FACT WHEN HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN AMSTERDAM SEPTEMBER 8 THAT BANGKOK HAD SUPPLANTED HONG KONG.)

4. ALTHOUGH ONLY 10 TO 15 PERCENT OF THE HEROIN SEIZED IN THE U.S. COMES FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS 27 AGENTS THERE TO TRY TO CONTROL THE SUPPLY. THE MAJORITY ARE LOCATED AT THE PRINCIPAL SOURCE, THAILAND, WITH 14 IN BANGKOK, THREE IN CHIANG MAI, AND TWO IN SONGKHLA. (DEA HAS ONLY FOUR AGENTS IN HONG KONG.)

5. UNFORTUNATELY, ONLY ONE EUROPEAN COUNTRY, THE UNITED KINGDOM, HAS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICE IN BANGKOK. (ANOTHER WESTERN HEMISPHERE NATION, CANADA, HAS AN AGENT THERE, AND AUSTRALIA HAS A REGIONAL NARCOTICS OFFICE IN KUALA LUMPUR WHO VISITS BANGKOK FREQUENTLY.)

6. ACCORDING TO INTERPOL, MOST OF THE HEROIN SEIZED IN EUROPE IN 1975 WAS INTENDED FOR DELIVERY TO ONE OF THE MAJOR CITIES IN THE NETHERLANDS, USUALLY AMSTERDAM, WHICH CONTINUED TO BE THE MAIN DISTRIBUTION CENTER IN EUROPE.

7. THE SEIZURES OF HEROIN IN THE NETHERLANDS ALONE ROSE FROM 50 GRAMS IN 1971, THE FIRST YEAR OF RECORD, TO 59 KILOGRAMS IN 1975. THE FACT THAT ONE OF THE LARGEST HEROIN SEIZURES IN HISTORY, THE 138.2 KILOGRAMS CAPTURED BY THE POLICE IN BANGKOK AUGUST 30, WAS DESTINED FOR THE NETHERLANDS DEMONSTRATES THAT THE FLOW IS INCREASING.

8. THE APPOINTMENT OF A DUTCH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WOULD AUGMENT THE EFFORTS ALREADY BEING MADE BY CANADA, THE U.K. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND THE U.S., AS WELL AS THE UN, TO ENCOURAGE THE THAI TO INCREASE THEIR ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES. THAI ACTION TO DATE, WHILE ENCOURAGING IN TERMS OF NUMBERS OF SEIZURES, QUANTITIES SEIZED, AND INCREASED CUSTOMS EFFECTIVENESS, COULD BE IMPROVED BY PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND EXPERTISE.

9. A DUTCH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IN BANGKOK COULD PROVIDE LIAISON BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF

THE NETHERLANDS ON NARCOTICS MATTERS AND COORDINATE SUPPRESSION EFFORTS INVOLVING THAILAND AND THE NETHERLANDS. THE COUNTRIES THAT NOW HAVE NARCOTICS OFFICERS IN THAILAND HAVE GAINED FROM THE INCREASED EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION AND COOPERATION IN ENFORCEMENT RESULTING FROM THEIR PRESENCE.

10. A DUTCH OFFICER COULD GAIN FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE OF ASIAN DRUG TRAFFICKING, HAVE ACCESS TO UP-TO-DATE INTELLIGENCE CONCERNING TRAFFICKING TO THE NETHERLANDS, AND BE ABLE TO PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE OF DEMAND AND SUPPLY IN THE NETHERLANDS THAT WOULD, IN COMBINATION WITH THE WORK OF U.S. AND OTHER THIRD-COUNTRY NARCOTICS OFFICERS, CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFORT TO COMBAT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING FROM THAILAND. IN ADDITION, A DUTCH OFFICER COULD USE BANGKOK AS A BASE FOR LIAISON WORK WITH NARCOTICS OFFICIALS IN HONG KONG, SINGAPORE AND OTHER IMPORTANT ASIAN ENTREPOTS.

11. RECENT DUTCH EXPERIENCE IN BANGKOK ILLUSTRATES THE POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES TO BE GAINED. DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF THE TWO DUTCH TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED AUGUST 30, THAI CUSTOMS AND POLICE HAD LIMITED SUCCESS IN GAINING SIGNIFICANT INTELLIGENCE UNTIL DUTCH NARCOTICS OFFICERS ARRIVED AND CONDUCTED THEIR OWN INTERROGATION. END QUOTE.
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